Kingston City Hall Ups the Ambience with Anolis

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Photo courtesy Louise Stickland

A new Anolis Ambiane LED house lighting installation has transformed the multipurpose

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performance venue and event space of Kingston City Hall located in Moorabbin, 15 kilometres out of Melbourne, Australia, into a vibrant and dynamic environment.

The venue is local government-run and part of the Kingston Arts network. The new lighting design was created by Eddie Galak, business development manager and architectural lighting specialist for Jands, the Anolis distributor in Australia, following a competitive tender issued for the lighting upgrade.

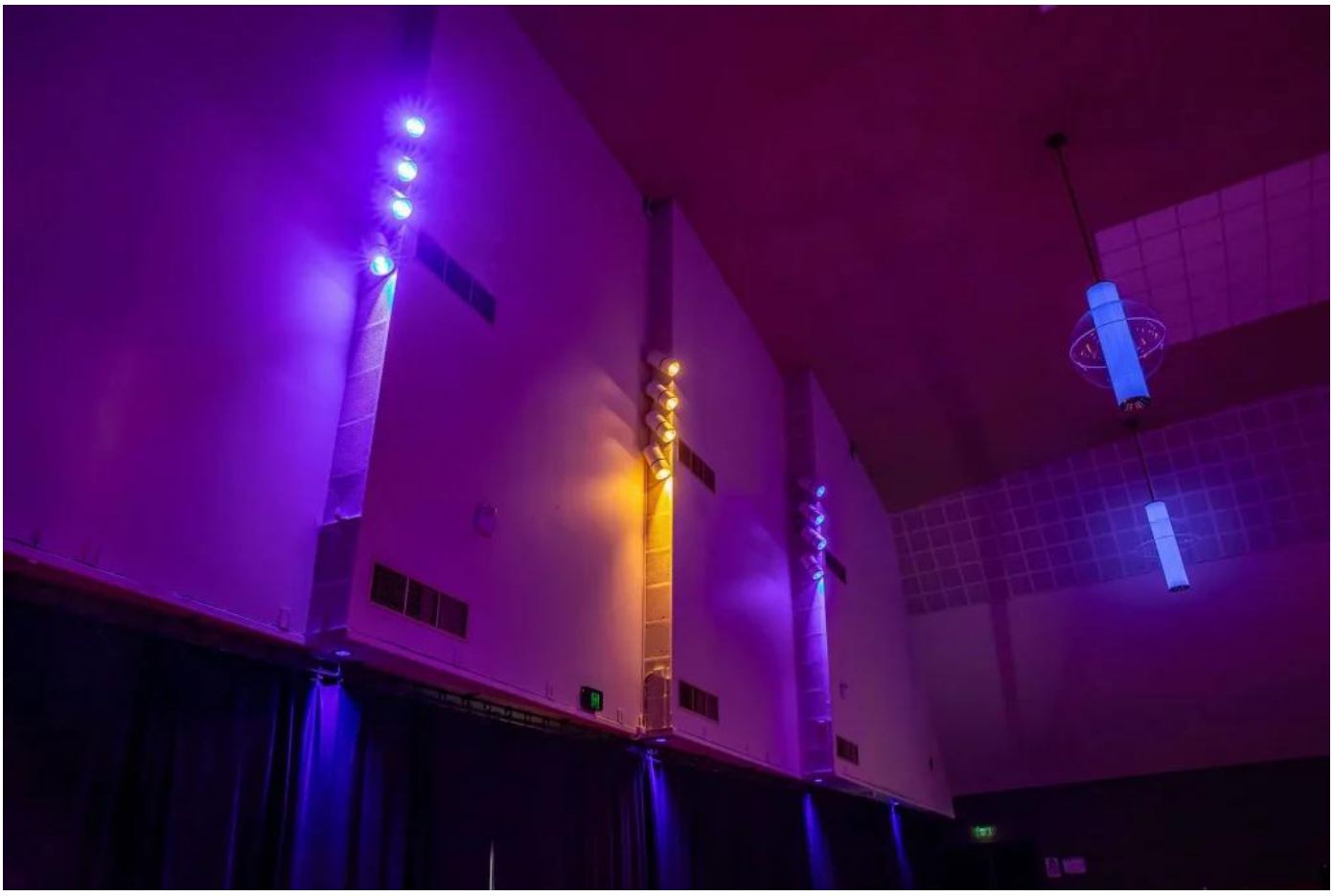


Photo courtesy Louise Stickland

A major challenge was that no additional weight could be added to the ceiling of the hall, which

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opened in 1963, complete with a standing capacity of 1000 and a working organ.

The lighting scheme comprises a mixture of standard and customised Anolis fixtures, including 32 x bespoke Ambiane XP56 high-output, high-performance fixtures with white casings.

These are fixed to four recessed raised wall cavities in banks of four lights per side, making creative use of these spaces and getting more lighting into the room without adding extra weight loading.

To retain the building’s features, these lighting positions had to be as inconspicuous as possible, so Eddie worked with the team at the Anolis factory who were “brilliant” in helping find a solution utilising the remote pendant version of the Ambiane XP56. They designed and fabricated a custom bracket so this pendant fixture – manufactured in white – could be wall-mountable as needed.

Eddie noted that this flexibility and willingness to think ‘outside the box’ is a big bonus of working with Anolis.

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In the roof cavities beneath the recessed overhangs, 12 x Anolis Ambiane MP111s – six a side – are integrated as downlighters to the floor. Their size and output were ideal for these positions.

The installation has dramatically boosted the house lighting, which previously relied on six scenic chandeliers producing light levels in the 40-lux range and needed supplementing with PAR cans to achieve the required 300 lux.

The chandeliers have been retained as classic 1960s period pieces – and internally refurbished to now be fitted with LED strips. They are an excellent match with the new house lighting system.

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The Anolis lighting introduces vibrance and colour that were absent before, as well as a range of crisp white colour temperatures, creating different moods for audience walk-ins, sit-down dinners and the many other purposes for which the venue is used.

The venue regularly hosts bands, dance shows, comedy, dinners, awards events and a wide range of business and municipal events, including citizenship ceremonies. The investment in this project demonstrates the council’s commitment to delivering quality arts and cultural experiences for the community.

The house lighting system is controlled by ETC Echo Touch.



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Dave Wilkinson and Matt Hemley both work on Kingston City Hall’s technical production, Matt as senior production manager and head technician and Dave as a technical co-ordinator, and they appreciate the new lighting and all the flexibility it brings.

Matt arrived there four years ago, specifically to instigate and oversee a complete house lighting upgrade, and comments that the Anolis installation has made a “huge difference” to how they can stage shows and how people can experience events.

“The new lighting helps us offer a proper immersive experience for guests which is especially popular for school shows,” he notes. “All the clients are amazed!”

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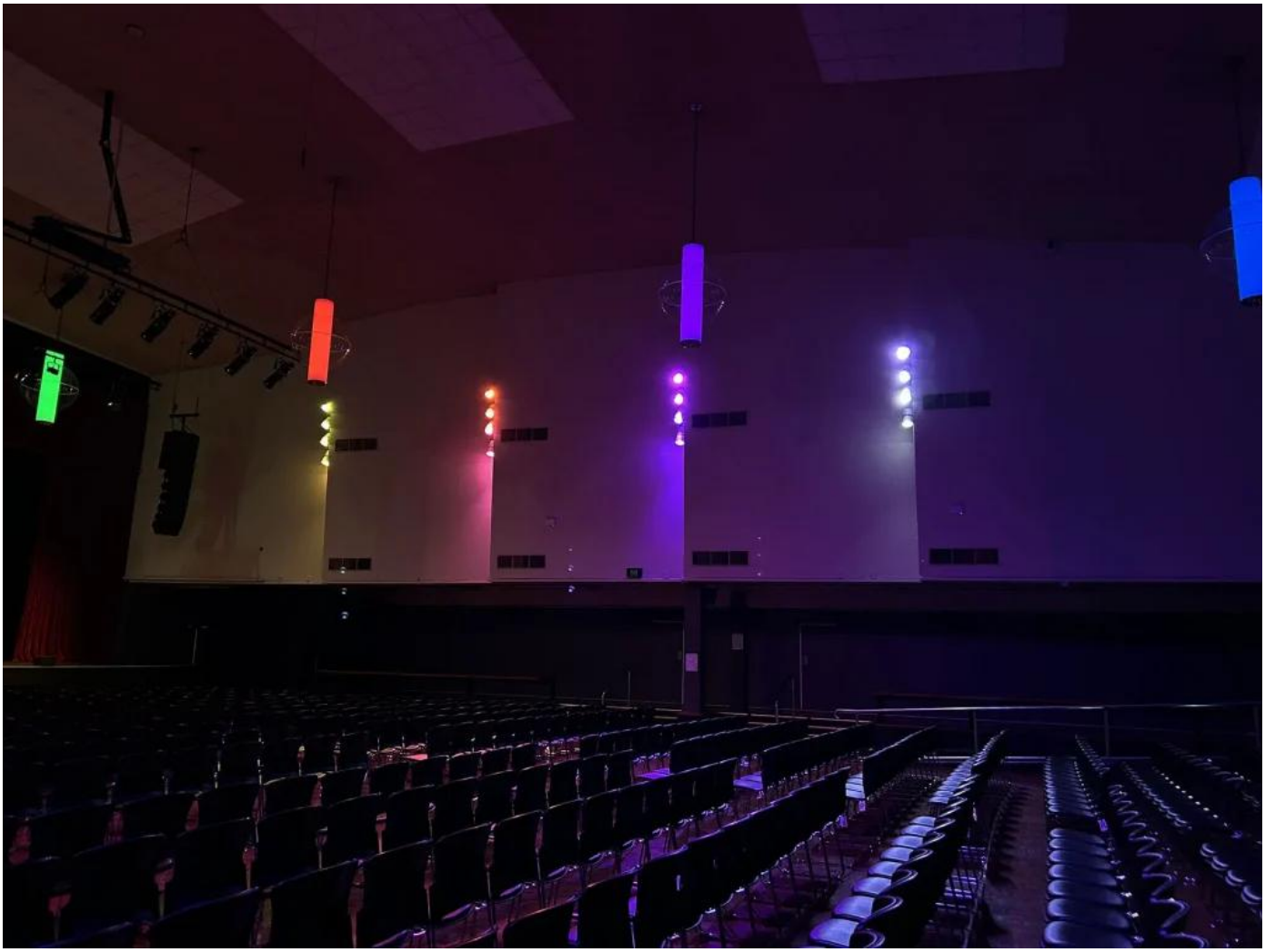


Photo courtesy *Eddie Galak*

Both Dave and Matt were involved in writing the tender document. Coming from theatrical backgrounds, they wanted lighting that could blend with the stage lighting, was DMX-controlled, and of course, it needed to be integrated unobtrusively into the existing room architecture.

Eddie’s proposal using Anolis ticked all the boxes and provided an elegant and practical solution.

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The integrator was ASL Systems, working with Byte Electrics for the installation, which was co-ordinated by Glenn Rawlins.

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